

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

S E C R E T STATE 229795

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU, CY

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S SEPTEMBER 24 BILATERAL WITH GREEK
FONMIN BITSIOS

1. BITSIOS OPENED BY EXPRESSING SATISFACTION RE THE
SECRETARY'S REFERENCE TO CYPRUS IN HIS SEPTEMBER 22 SPEECH
BEFORE THE UNGA. HE SAID IT WAS USEFUL FOR THE TURKS TO
BE AWARE THAT OTHERS UNDERSTOOD BASIC ELEMENTS OF CYPRUS
PROBLEM AND WERE WILLING TO STATE THEIR POSITIONS IN
PUBLIC. THE SECRETARY CONFIRMED THAT HIS SPEECH REPRESENTED
BASIC US POLICY.

2. RE CYPRUS, THE SECRETARY SAID HE HAD FOUND CAGLAYANGIL'S
ATTITUDE RELATIVELY FORTHCOMING, THOUGH DEVELOPMENT OF
TURKISH POSITION ON CYPRUS WAS STILL SUBJECT TO RESULTS OF
OCTOBER 12 SENATE ELECTION AND LIFTING OF US ARMS EMBARGO.
HE INFORMED BITSIOS THAT THE TURKS HAD BEEN TOLD IN CLEAR
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TERMS THAT IF EMBARGO IS LIFTED AND THERE IS NO ACTION ON

CYPRUS IT WILL CREATE SERIOUS PROBLEM IN US-TURKISH RELATIONS.

3. RE ARMS EMBARGO, BITSIOS SAID CARAMANLIS' POSITION WAS THAT GREECE COULD NOT BE PLEASED WITH LIFTING SINCE THERE WAS NO GUARANTEE THAT ARMS WOULD NOT BE USED AGAINST

GREEK SIDE. HOWEVER, GREEK GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE NO PUBLIC POSITION AND WASHINGTON EMBASSY WOULD REMAIN NEUTRAL.

4. ASSUMING THAT HOUSE WILL PASS BILL ON EMBARGO BITSIOS ASKED WHAT PLANS USG HAD DEVELOPED RE ASSISTANCE PACKAGE THAT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED BETWEEN TWO GOVERNMENTS DURING PAST YEAR. THE SECRETARY REPLIED THAT THE PRESIDENT AND HE HAD CONSIDERED PROPOSING TO GREEK GOVERNMENT THAT A US TEAM VISIT ATHENS TO DISCUSS GREEK ECONOMIC AND MILITARY NEEDS AS BASIS FOR PROPOSAL TO CONGRESS. HE HAD NOT WANTED TO DO THIS, HOWEVER, BEFORE HOUSE VOTE ON TURKISH ARMS SINCE IT COULD BE MISUNDERSTOOD AS PLOY TO INFLUENCE VOTE. BITSIOS SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS THIS WITH CARAMANLIS AND WOULD LET THE SECRETARY KNOW HIS REACTION. LATER IN CONVERSATION BITSIOS ASKED WHETHER AID TO GREECE AND TURKEY WOULD BE LINKED. THE SECRETARY INDICATED A PREFERENCE FOR A PACKAGE INVOLVING A NUMBER OF RECIPIENT COUNTRIES AND SAID HE SAW NO ADVANTAGE IN A GREEK-TURKISH LINKAGE.

5. WHEN THE CONVERSATION RETURNED TO CYPRUS, BITSIOS EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM RE TURKISH CLAIM THAT IMMOBILITY WAS CAUSED BY PENDING SENATE ELECTIONS. NEVERTHELESS HE HAD TALKED TO MAKARIOS AND UNDERSTANDING WAS THE GREEK-CYPRIOIS WOULD NOT PRESS CYPRUS ISSUE AT UNGA UNTIL POSSIBILITY OF TURKISH FLEXIBILITY AFTER ELECTION WAS TESTED. MAKARIOS WOULD REMAIN IN NEW YORK ONLY A WEEK OR SO AND WOULD NOT AWAIT DEBATE ON CYPRUS ISSUE. IF TURKISH SIDE WAS FORTHCOMING AFTER SENATE ELECTION THIS WOULD CHANGE ASPECT OF UNGA CYPRUS DEBATE. BITSIOS DID NOT APPEAR TO EXPECT INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS TO RESUME UNTIL AFTER DEBATE.

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6. THE SECRETARY SAID USG WOULD DO WHAT IT COULD TO HELP. HE SUGGESTED HE COULD SEND ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN TO ANKARA SHORTLY AFTER TURKISH ELECTION TO TRY TO OBTAIN A TURKISH NEGOTIATING POSITION WHICH HARTMAN COULD TAKE TO ATHENS. IT WOULD HOPEFULLY JUSTIFY A LOW-KEY DEBATE IN THE UNGA AND PROVIDE BASIS FOR RENEWAL OF INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS.

7. BITSIOS EXPRESSED VIEW THAT INTERCOMMUNAL FORUM UNDER WALDHEIM SHOULD NOT BE ONLY APPROACH TO NEGOTIATIONS. EC-9 INITIATIVE HAD NOT YET BEEN ADEQUATE BUT SOME SUCH OUTSIDE IMPETUS WOULD BE NEEDED TO MOVE THE TURKS. HE AND THE SECRETARY DISCUSSED IN GENERAL TERMS POSSIBILITY OF A COMBINED INITIATIVE BY EC-9 AND USG AT APPROPRIATE TIME, AND IT WAS AGREED THIS OPTION WOULD BE KEPT OPEN.

8. IN THE PRESENCE OF BITSIOS, THE SECRETARY ASKED HARTMAN TO GET IN TOUCH WITH CAGLAYANGIL TO INFORM HIM THAT THE HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE HAD JUST VOTED (9-6) TO SEND THE TURKISH ARMS EMBARGO BILL TO THE HOUSE FLOOR, THAT THE VOTE WOULD OCCUR SEPT. 30 OR OCT. 1, AND TO EMPHASIZE THAT IF THE BILL WAS PASSED IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT PRODUCE MOVEMENT ON THE CYPRUS ISSUE. (HARTMAN LATER PASSED THIS MESSAGE TO CAGLAYANGIL THROUGH TURKISH DIRECTOR FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS TEZEL.) KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, ARMS EMBARGO, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE229795
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WLEAGLETON
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P850036-2045, N750004-0658
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750913/aaaaalex.tel
Line Count: 134
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <29 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECRETARY'S SEPTEMBER 24 BILATERAL WITH GREEK FONMIN BITSIOS
TAGS: PFOR, PREL, GR, TU, CY, UNGA, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (BITSIOS, DIMITRIOS),
To: ATHENS ANKARA NICOSIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006